

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USDEL ALEXANDRIA

UNCLAS CAIRO 8353

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP KISSINGER, HENRY A.

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- SECRETARY'S MIDEAST TRIP

1. PRESS ON AUGUST 21 GIVES BASICALLY SIMILAR COVERAGE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ME TRIP, PROPOSED INTERIM ACCORD AND PROTESTS IN ISRAEL. ALL PAPERS PUBLISH DETAILS OF PREPARATIONS FOR RECEIVING SECRETARY IN ALEXANDRIA. AL AHRAM AND AL AKHBAR REPORT THAT SECRETARY MAY HAVE TO STAY IN ME UNTIL MED SEPTEMBER, BUT THAT HE WILL INTERRUPT TRIP FOR U.N. ADDRESS EARLY IN SEPTEMBER. ALL PAPERS ALSO REPORT THAT AMERICAN CIVILIAN STAFF WILL OPERATE EARLY WARNING STATIONS, THAT STAFF WILL BE RECRUITED BY U.S. COMMERCIAL FIRMS WHICH MANUFACTURE MONITORING DEVICES, AND THAT USSR WAS "CONSULTED" ABOUT PRESENCE OF U.S. CIVILIAN STAFF IN SINAI.

2. AL AKHBAR GIVES PROMINENCE TO PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS INSIDE ISRAEL. OPEN LETTER BY ISRAELI INTELLECTUALS, AL AKHBAR REPORTS, SAID THAT PROPOSED ACCORD, "WHICH IS MEANT TO LEAD TO UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ANY POLITICAL COMPENSATION, ENDANGERS ISRAEL'S SECURITY." LETTER CALLED FOR "RESISTING U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL"

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AND CLAIMED ACCORD WAS "IMPOSED" ON ISRAEL. AL AHRAM

DESCRIBED DEMONSTRATIONS AS "MOST HOSTILE TO FACE SECRETARY SINCE BEGINNING OF HIS MISSION AFTER OCTOBER WAR." YET, AL AHRAM INDICATES, "OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT RABIN WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN ENOUGH VOTES TO PASS ACCORD IN KNESSET."

3. ALL PAPERS ALSO REPORT STORY THAT ISRAEL INTENDS TO AMEND DISENGAGEMENT LINES WITH SYRIA.

4. AL AHRAM AND AL AKHBAR MENTION THAT LARGE U.S. AID TO ISRAEL REPRESENTS CORE OF ISRAELI-AMERICAN TALKS. AL AHRAM ADDS THAT ISRAEL IS NOW REQUESTING \$3,300 MILLION INSTEAD OF \$1,800 MILLION.

5. AL AHRAM AND AL AKHBAR REPORT THAT NEW ACCORD STIPULATES ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL EAST OF PASSES AND GIVING UP OF OILFIELDS IN RETURN FOR EGYPT'S ACCEPTANCE OF NEW UNEF MANDATE FOR THREE YEARS. ACCORDING TO U.S. AND ISRAELI SOURCES QUOTED BY AL AHRAM, ASPECTS OF NEW ACCORD STILL TO BE RESOLVED ARE: A) "SOME LIMITED DIFFERENCES (FEW HUNDRED YARDS) ON LINE OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, B) POSTS WHERE EGYPTIAN FORCES WILL BE STATIONED "IN COURSE OF THEIR ADVANCEMENT EASTWARD," AND C) MONITORING STATIONS. AL AHRAM RECALLS THAT SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD NOT RESUME ME MEDIATION FOR INTERIM ACCORD UNLESS THERE ARE 90 PERCENT CHANCES OF SUCCESS; AND REPORTS ON PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS STATEMENT THAT INTERIM ACCORD "IS IN INTEREST OF BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL."

6. IN SEPARATE ITEMS, AL AHRAM AND AL GOMHURIYA REPORT EGYPTIAN CRITICAL VIEW ON ISRAELI-RELEASED PREMATURE INFORMATION ON ACCORD.

7. AL AKHBAR SIGNIFICANTLY FRONTPAGES PHOTO OF EGYPTIAN MINISTER MEETING POPE WHO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT "CURRENT TALKS WILL LEAD TO ME PEACE." (FURTHER DETAILS IN MEDIA NEWS).

8. ONLY AL GOMHURIYA COVERS LE MONDE INTERVIEW WITH ARAFAT. AL GOMHURIYA'S BRIEF ITEM QUOTES ARAFAT AS UNCLASSIFIED

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SAYING THAT, IN PRINCIPLE, PALESTINIANS DO NOT OBJECT TO ANY ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND THAT PRESIDENT SADAT WILL NOT REMAIN SILENT IF WAR BREAKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA OR ANY OTHER ARAB COUNTRY.

9. CAIRO PRESS COVERS NUMEIRY'S SUPPORT OF ACCORD AND IGNORED CRITICAL VIEWS, ESPECIALLY BY PALESTINIANS, REPORTED BY NON-EGYPTIAN MEDIA.

10. EDITORIALLY, FRONTPAGE COLUMN IN AL GOMHURIYA
PLEDGES NO EGYPTIAN WORD WAR WITH PALESTINIANS BECAUSE
"WAR WILL ALWAYS BE WITH ISRAEL." EDITORIAL REMINDS
PALESTINIANS THAT ISRAEL'S OBJECTIVE IS "TO CAUSE RIFT
BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND THEIR MAJOR SUPPORT -- EGYPT".
AS IT DID ON AUGUST 20, AL AHRAM SAYS THAT WHATEVER
ATTITUDE GOI TAKES TOWARD PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS, "SUCH
DEMONSTRATIONS WILL CERTAINLY BE USED IN ATTEMPT TO
INFLUENCE COURSE OF TALKS, EMBARRASS AMERICAN SIDE AND
EXERT PRESSURE FOR BETTER TERMS". AL AKHBAR'S MAIN
EDITORIAL SAYS DOMINANT "ANTI-PEACE CLIMATE IN ISRAEL"
IS "NORMAL PHENOMENON FOR BASICALLY AGGRESSIVE SOCIETY."
ANOTHER COLUMN IN AL AKHBAR SAYS THAT NOTHING BUT VIOLENT
ANTI-EGYPTIAN CAMPAIGNS "BY SOME ARAB BRETHREN" PLEASE
ISRAEL. FEATURE IN AL GOMHURIYA BY DIPLOMATIC REPORTER
HODA TAWFIK NOTES THAT, DURING HIS TIME IN EGYPT, SECRETARY
WILL ALSO DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS AND CAIRO-WASHINGTON
ECONOMIC COOPERATION. STORY ALSO REVIEWS U.S. PRESSURE
ON ISRAEL, E.G. SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF AID UNTIL
PROGRESS ON NEW INTERIM ACCORD BEGINS.
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